

Amendment to the Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1-33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising

dead *E. coli* comprising at least one modified peanut allergen whose amino acid sequence differs from that of a wild-type peanut allergen that occurs in nature such that the modified peanut allergen has a reduced ability to bind to or cross-link IgE as compared with the wild-type peanut allergen, wherein the wild-type peanut allergen is an Ara h 1, Ara h 2 or Ara h 3 protein with an amino acid sequence that is encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:2, or SEQ ID NO:3, and wherein the modified peanut allergen has an amino acid sequence substantially identical to that of its corresponding wild type peanut allergen except that at least one IgE epitope has been mutated in the modified peanut allergen such that the modified peanut allergen has the reduced ability to bind or to crosslink IgE, and further wherein the modified peanut allergen is encapsulated inside the dead *E. coli*; and
a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

35. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 34, wherein the wild-type peanut allergen is an Ara h 1 protein with an amino acid sequence that is encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

36. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 34, wherein the wild-type peanut allergen is an Ara h 2 protein with an amino acid sequence that is encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

37. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 34, wherein the wild-type peanut allergen is an Ara h 3 protein with an amino acid sequence that is encoded by the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:3.

38. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 34, wherein the sequence of the modified peanut allergen differs from the sequence of the wild-type peanut allergen by one or more amino acid deletions, substitutions or additions within an IgE binding site of the wild-type peanut allergen.
39. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 38, wherein the sequence of the modified peanut allergen lacks a portion of the wild-type peanut allergen sequence, and wherein said portion includes an IgE binding site.
40. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 34, wherein the modified peanut allergen is located in the cytoplasm of the dead *E. coli*.
41. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 34, wherein the modified peanut allergen is located in the periplasm of the dead *E. coli*.
42. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 34, wherein the modified peanut allergen cannot be detected by antibody binding without disrupting the dead *E. coli*.
43. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 34, wherein the dead *E. coli* was heat-killed.
44. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 34, wherein the dead *E. coli* was killed by chemical treatment.
45. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 44, wherein the dead *E. coli* was killed using a chemical selected from the group consisting of iodine, bleach, ozone, and alcohol.